

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /141 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVANORDER
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S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 102794

R 292143Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 29, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. THERE HAVE BEEN RECURRENT REPORTS ABOUT THE
SECRETARY MAKING A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN OCTOBER AND
GOING BACK AND FORTH. IS HE, OR ISN'T HE GOING?

A. ON THIS, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS ON THE AIR
WAVES AND OTHER PLACES OF VARIOUS PLANS THAT THE SECRETARY
HAS -- AND THE SECRETARY TOLD ME, HE SAID, YES, HE DOES
HAVE GENERAL PLANS TO MAKE A POSSIBLE TRIP TO THE MIDDLE
EAST.

Q. "POSSIBLE" TRIP?

A. YES. IN OCTOBER. HE HAS NOT DECIDED ON THE TIMING.

THE QUESTION OF GOING TO MOSCOW, AND INDIA, PAKISTAN,
BANGLADESH, IN LATE OCTOBER -- THIS IS THE GENERAL FRAME-
WORK -- AND TODAY, THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED IN CONNECTION

WITH SECRETARY BUTZ' BEING THE CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE WORLD
FOOD CONFERENCE, IN ROME, IN NOVEMBER -- THE WHITE HOUSE
ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECRETARY PLANNED TO GIVE AN ADDRESS
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AT THE CONFERENCE -- AND THIS WOULD BE AT THE BEGINNING OF
THE CONFERENCE, WHICH I BELIEVE IS NOVEMBER 5.

BUT I ASSURE YOU, AS SOON AS WE GET SPECIFIC DETAILS ON
THESE I WILL GIVE THEM TO YOU, AS SOON AS THEY ARE KNOWN.
BUT THE SECRETARY HAS NOT TIED DOWN SPECIFIC DATES HERE,
AT ALL.

Q. YOU WEREN'T SUGGESTING THIS IS ALL ONE TRIP WERE YOU?
YOU WERE JUST MENTIONING ALL THE PLACES HE MIGHT GO IN
OCTOBER.

A. I BELIEVE THAT THE GENERAL PLAN IS THAT MOSCOW, INDIA,
PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH AND THAT WILL PROBABLY BE ON ONE TRIP.
AND COMING BACK VIA ROME.

THE QUESTION OF A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, WHETHER THAT
WOULD BE PART OF THAT TRIP OR SEPARATE -- MAY BE EARLIER,
AS SOME OF YOU HAVE REPORTED -- THOSE THINGS HAVE JUST
NOT BEEN TIED DOWN YET. BUT YOU WILL HAVE IT, I PROMISE
YOU, AS SOON AS WE GET IT.

Q. IS THIS TRIP IN THE MIDDLE EAST BASED ON THE U.S.-
JORDANIAN COMMUNIQUE OF A DISENGAGEMENT PROCEDURE FOR
ISRAEL?

A. NO, THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED THAT THE OTHER DAY ON THE
COMMUNIQUE THERE, AND IT'S NOT BEING BASED ON THAT -- HE
WOULD GO AND HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PARTIES IN
THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. ALL THE PARTIES?

A. AND AT THIS TIME I CAN'T TELL YOU WHICH PLACES HE WOULD
GO TO. THIS HAS NOT BEEN FINALLY DECIDED.

I THINK HE HAS THE -- FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF THE SAUDI
ARABIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HE WILL BE MEETING WITH PRIME
MINISTER RABIN. I WOULD ASSUME -- BUT I DID NOT CHECK HIM
ON THIS POINT -- THAT FOLLOWING THAT, THE MEETINGS WITH
PRIME MINISTER RABIN, THAT HE WOULD BEGIN TO MAKE MORE
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DEFINITE PLANS ON THE TIMING ETC. AND OTHER DETAILS, FOR
A MIDDLE EAST TRIP.

Q. ON THE SECOND TRIP, WHICH SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE MORE
DEFINITE THAN THE FIRST ONE, THE TRIP INVOLVING THE SOVIET
UNION, INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH -- CAN YOU GIVE US
THE COUNTRIES ON THAT TRIP IF NOT THE DATES?

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE THAN I'VE JUST SAID AND
WHAT THE SECRETARY TOLD YOU YESTERDAY.

Q. CAN YOU ADD IRAN TO THAT LIST?

A. POSSIBLY -- BUT I JUST DO NOT KNOW THAT. THE SECRE-
TARY ACTUALLY DIDN'T TALK TO ME ABOUT THAT -- ALTHOUGH I

HAVE HEARD IT.

Q. BUT WE CAN COUNT ON INDIA, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH,
SOVIET UNION AND ROME, AT LEAST?

A. THAT IS THE PRESENT PLAN.

Q. A FACTOR THAT HAS ARISEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS THAT
RUSSIAN WARSHIPS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER HAVE BEEN PATROL-
LING VERY CLOSE TO THE SINAI PENINSULA AND IN ONE CASE,
AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, A CREW ABOARD A RUSSIAN MINESWEEPER,
TURNED HIGH PRESSURE HOSES ON AN ISRAELI PATROL BOAT.

NOW I WONDER WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE HAD ANY REPORTS ON
THIS, AND WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS THE WAY A GREAT POWER
CONDUCTS ITSELF AGAINST A SMALL NATION.

A. I HAVE SEEN THE SAME REPORTS YOU HAVE AND I FRANKLY
DON'T, REALLY, HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE QUESTION OF OIL WAS DISCUSSED
IN THE MEETING TODAY?

A. WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SAQQAF?

Q. YES.
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A. I HAVE NOT CHECKED WITH THE SECRETARY SINCE THE LUNCH.

Q. YOU DIDN'T MENTION GENEVA, AS A POSSIBILITY. DOES
THIS MEAN THAT THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE WILL OPEN AFTER
A SECOND ROUND OF EXPLORATORY TALKS?

A. I DID NOT MENTION GENEVA. THAT IS CORRECT. I THINK
ON THE QUESTION OF THE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA TALKS,
AGAIN WE HAVE TO STICK WHERE WE HAVE BEEN. I THINK THE
SECRETARY ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THIS VERY RECENTLY -- THAT

THE VARIOUS ARAB LEADERS ARE DISCUSSING THIS QUESTION, TO
DECIDE, THEMSELVES, ON WHEN THEY THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL
TO HAVE ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS AT GENEVA.

AND THAT, I ASSUME, IS GOING TO DEPEND PARTLY ON ANOTHER
ARAB SUMMIT MEETING. I DON'T BELIEVE THE DATE FOR THAT
HAS BEEN FIRMLY SET -- AND WE JUST WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND
SEE WHAT THEIR VIEWS ARE, FIRST.

Q. COMING BACK TO THESE RUSSIAN BOATS -- ARE YOU SAYING

YOU HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS OR WHETHER
YOU HAVE NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THIS -- OR WHAT?

A. I'M SAYING I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THIS STORY. AND ON
YOUR QUESTION: IS THIS THE WAY A BIG POWER SHOULD CONDUCT
ITSELF -- I HAVE NO COMMENT.

Q. BUT DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE AN OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE
INCIDENT?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO. THERE MAY BE A REPORT IN, BUT I
AM UNAWARE OF IT.

Q. CAN YOU FIND OUT?

A. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND ON IT, YES.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE REPORT
THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MILITARY ALERT CALLED IN SYRIA --
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OR WAS ONE CALLED LAST WEEK?

A. FRANKLY, WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION ON THAT, AT ALL, THAT
THERE WAS ONE LAST WEEK. AND NOW THERE'S A REPORT I
HEARD TODAY, ANOTHER REPORT ON AN ALERT. WE DON'T HAVE
ANY CONFIRMATION ON THAT. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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